

Dismiss 4 at Arsenal For Stealing Paint

Two Joliet Arsenal guards and two McGraw Construction company supervisors were dismissed from their jobs at the Elwood Ordnance Plant yesterday.

They face government prosecution on larceny charges after military intelligence agents discovered that they were stealing paint from the plant.

According to information supplied Col. Raymond C. Costabile, commanding officer of the Arsenal, \$500 worth of paint was recovered by the security agents. It is not yet known exactly how much more paint was disposed of before the crack-down.

THIS IS THE fourth case within a month discovered by the military intelligence at the Arsenal where employees of construction firms have attempted to steal items from either the Kankakee or Elwood works. However, it is the first instance in which actual Arsenal employes, such as the guards, are involved, Costabile said.

The accused were successful in removing hundreds of gallons of red, green and buff colored paint from the grounds but most

of the materials were recovered, it is believed. The paint was in one gallon containers.

In addition to be dismissed, the employes face further action by the government. Federal Bureau of Investigation agents have been called into the case by Arsenal officials to probe further into the matter.

Two of the persons dismissed reside in Joliet and the others reside in the Elwood area, temporarily.

According to the intelligence agents, this is the way the quartet operated: The construction company supervisors set aside lots of the paint in the warehouse area where it is stored prior to its use by the contractor. The guards then took their squad car, loaded the paint in the squad car and moved the material to an isolated gate exit. The paint was then put in the weeds or hidden in ravines. After the guards and construction workers finished their shift work they would drive in their own cars and pick up the materials. They sold some of the paint they stole, it was further learned by the agents.